

Appl. No. 09/917,099
Amdt. Dated October 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0240
Customer No.: 26021

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Figs. 6 and 7, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 6 and 7. In Figure 6, arrows have been added, as described hereafter.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On June 19, 2006, Applicants filed a Response to the Office Action of April 19, 2006. In the Response, Applicants pointed out reasons why Applicants strongly believe amendments to the drawings to be unnecessary. However, in the subsequent paper mailed by the Examiner on September 13, 2006, the requirement for drawing amendments made in the Office Action of April 19, 2006 is repeated and Applicants are given one month within which to reply.

In the Office Action of April 19, 2006, the drawings are objected to as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More specifically, it is stated in the Office Action that "the step of selectively applying a pressure from the outer surface of said display panel body to the region where the thermosetting seal material is disposed through said buffer plates without pressing the display regions of the display panel body which overlap the openings formed in the buffer plates in the portions of the buffer plates corresponding to the openings must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims."

In response to the arguments subsequently made by Applicants that the requirement for amendment to the drawings is inappropriate, the Examiner's paper of September 13, 2006 states in the third paragraph thereof "While figure 5 specifically shows the application of a pressure in the portions of the buffer plate (without pressing the display regions which overlap the openings), figure 6 does show an application of the pressure through the opening of the buffer plate. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to ascertain where such application of pressure can be applied. In other words, the drawing is not clear how to support the claimed invention". In view of this statement that Fig. 5 is acceptable but not Fig. 6, Applicants are adding arrows to Fig. 6 to more clearly illustrate the manner in which pressure is applied to the outer surface of the

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display panel bodies in the regions where the thermosetting seal material is disposed, through the buffer plates, without pressing the display regions of the display panel bodies which overlap the openings formed in the buffer plates. More specifically, in Fig. 6, downwardly directed arrows are being added to show the manner in which downward force from the upper pressing mechanism 210 is applied to the upper surface of the uppermost panel body 110 in areas where the adjacent buffer plate 300 exist but not in areas where there are openings 302 in the buffer plate 300. Similarly, upwardly directed arrows are being added to Fig. 6 to show the manner in which upward force from the lower pressing mechanism 210 is applied to the lower surface of the lowermost panel body 110 in areas where the buffer plate 300 exists but not in areas where there are openings 302 in the adjacent buffer plate 300. A brief explanation of the downwardly and upwardly extending arrows is being added to page 14 of the Specification. Attached is a replacement sheet for Figs. 6 and 7 with the downwardly and upwardly extending arrows having been added to Fig. 6.

Claims 1-44 are pending in the Application, with claims 1-15 and 24-32 having been withdrawn. The Office Action of April 19, 2006 closed prosecution under Ex Parte Quayle and allowed claims 16-23 and 33-44.

The only outstanding issue is the requirement for amendment of the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that this requirement has now been met by the amendment of Fig. 6 being made herein and the amendment to the corresponding portion of the Specification. It is therefore submitted that the Application should now be in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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If the amendment to the drawings being made herein is not acceptable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to immediately telephone the undersigned so that a satisfactory drawing amendment can be made.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 12, 2006

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